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# WEATHER & CROPS



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**Week Ending: July 11, 2010**

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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 11, 2010

Across the Commonwealth, the weather conditions remained hot and dry with little or no rain. The excessive heat has left some crops in critical condition limiting proper development. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.6. Second crop hay production is down significantly in many areas. Producers are also concerned about the dry conditions on their corn crops. Double crop soybeans are slowly progressing and tobacco farmers are irrigating extensively. Many pastures and hayfields are dormant due to prolonged drought like conditions. Streams and creeks have little or no water, leaving some producers hauling water to their livestock. Peanuts are surviving, although, the dry ground are burning the pegs in some areas.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
June 13, 2010	2	27	66	5
June 20, 2010	6	36	56	2
June 27, 2010	29	46	25	0
July 4, 2010	47	36	17	0
July 11, 2010	55	35	10	0

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	22	42	25	10	1
Livestock	2	8	27	54	9
Hay, Other	22	28	33	16	1
Hay, Alfalfa	7	20	42	30	1
Corn	31	31	26	11	1
Soybeans	17	34	40	9	0
Tobacco, Flue-cured	37	34	14	10	5
Tobacco, Burley	6	5	11	77	1
Tobacco, Dark Fire-cured	18	33	32	15	2
Peanuts	0	2	40	58	0
Cotton	0	0	50	50	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	74	26	0
Apples, All	6	4	70	15	5
Peaches	4	10	32	39	15
Grapes	0	0	21	54	25

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	67	58	54	49
Corn Dough	6	5	6	6
Soybeans Planted	97	91	97	95
Soybeans Emerged	82	75	91	85
Soybeans Blooming	5	2	6	5
Winter Wheat Harvested	100	92	96	91
Peanuts Pegged	41	27	51	44
Cotton Squaring	62	36	61	67
Cotton Setting Bolls	42	16	12	11
Summer Potatoes Harvested	40	20	24	21
Summer Apples Harvested	10	N/A	17	8
Peaches Harvested	33	N/A	N/A	N/A

### VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 11, 2010

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to July 10	Mar. 1 to July 10 Normal	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	88	65	95	54	76	5	2060	1744	0.20	3.33	-1.87	23.05	- 0.23
Norfolk	89	72	99	60	80	6	2332	1909	0.43	4.19	- 1.04	23.83	0.00
Richmond	93	69	102	60	81	7	2353	1912	0.02	0.84	-4.10	17.63	-4.97
Roanoke	89	67	97	56	78	6	2171	NA	3.30	4.58	-0.34	21.92	-0.91
Wash/Dulles	95	69	101	57	82	7	2087	NA	0.61	1.90	-3.37	18.52	-3.52

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### NORTHERN

#### FAIRFAX (Adria Bordas)

There were three days this week that reached over 100 degrees; working outside was at a minimum or nearly impossible.

#### FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

We are experiencing extremely dry conditions, had several days of temperatures in the 100'. Ponds are drying up; producers are starting to feed their livestock. Some are selling their livestock due to lack of pasture, hay and water. Conditions are not looking too good.

#### PRINCE WILLIAM (Paige Thacker)

There has been extreme temperatures again throughout the week with no rainfall. Local vegetable growers are struggling to keep crops watered.

#### ROCKINGHAM (John L Welsh)

Some rain late in the week has temporarily eased drought conditions.

### WESTERN

#### AUGUSTA (Tom Stanley)

Scattered thunderstorms brought very limited relief to some parts of Augusta County. Dry conditions persist across the county with critical conditions developing in some crops, especially corn planted after May 15.

#### ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

The conditions remain hot and dry. Crops are showing signs of drought stress. Rainfall received has come hard and fast, running off rather than soaking in.

#### ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

There were thunderstorms on Wednesday and Thursday evening. The storms brought some limited relief from dry conditions that are persisting.

### WESTERN (continued)

#### AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

The weather has been hot and dry with little to no rain in the forecast. Corn and hay production is down significantly. Pastures have dried up. Soybeans are holding their own; too early to determine a yield loss.

### CENTRAL

#### APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Hot and dry with the need for rain summarizes the weather conditions. The excessive heat last week took its toll on all crops. Double crop soybeans are slow coming up and tobacco farmers are irrigating extensively.

#### CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

It has been very hot and dry. Corn and hay production will be very low, pastures are already dried up. Soybean production is too early to determine.

#### FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

Cattle are being fed hay as pastures are in terrible shape. Corn is suffering greatly. The second cutting of hay looks bleak at this point. The one rainfall event over the weekend has lifted spirits, and greened things up a bit. Much more moisture is needed before we are on our way to recovery from these early drought conditions.

#### HANOVER (Jim Tate)

The corn crop has perished. There are still living plants in some places but tasselling has come and gone with no rain and oven like conditions and most plant have no ears.

#### NELSON (Michael Lachance)

We are currently facing drought like conditions.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### EASTERN

#### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

The conditions have been hot. The rainfall amounts were relatively light with a few areas receiving more significant amounts.

#### MIDDLESEX (Moore)

The conditions are still dry and hot. Corn is going down this week. Yields have been hurt by 50-60% and yields if any will be spotty. Soybeans are holding their own, but some are trying to bloom and need rain.

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

A very hot and dry week set most crops back. Some corn starting to curl. Vegetable crops okay if irrigated. Heat reduced fruit set in some crops. Most fruit crops okay but need significant rain soon (if not irrigated). High humidity causing elevated disease issues. Landscape crops suffering if not irrigated with some trees coloring and dropping leaves prematurely.

#### WASHINGTON (Phil Blevins)

The conditions are getting very dry. Corn is beginning to suffer and pastures are drying up.

### SOUTHERN

#### FRANKLIN (Beverly Cox)

Most of the county received some much needed rainfall last Thursday and/or Friday. Reports were up to 1" Thursday and about the same Friday.

#### HALIFAX (Wayne R. Yarbrough, Jr.)

Drought conditions have become severe throughout Halifax County, Virginia. High heat without any precipitation during the past two-three weeks has had a devastating impact on all crops, livestock, and pastures.

### SOUTHERN (continued)

#### PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe, Stephen Barts)

Continued extreme hot and dry conditions plague crops. Corn silage is being harvested early to attempt to save feed value. Small grains yields were lower than expected. Cattle producers are feeding hay.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Spotty showers this week brought a little rain that helped some. Irrigation is going on strong. Livestock is showing signs of heat stress. Cool season grasses are dormant. Crops are showing signs of needing water.

#### SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Spotty showers of .2-.4 inches helped green up lawns but didn't help crops that much. We need a good soaker to help peanuts, cotton, and soybeans.

#### CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Crops need rain but are at severe drought levels as other parts of the state. Some corn is one rain away from making a full crop. Severe heat has probably hurt corn that is in the critical stages of pollination. All soybeans need rain. Most soybeans have germinated with sufficient stand.



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